

Practical News - A look back at 2023 in our annual report

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

Fri 3/22/2024 2:10 PM

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March 25, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



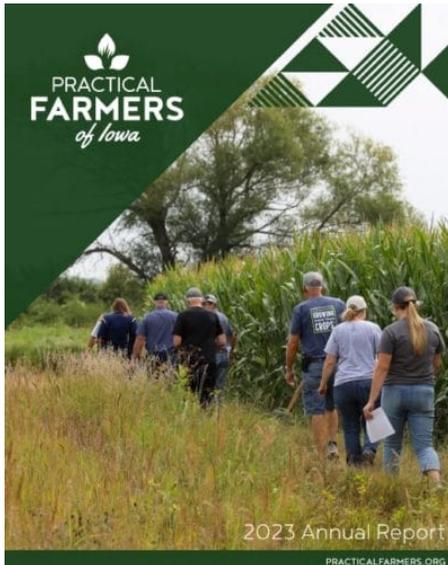
Blog: "Precision Conservation Analysis: Can Habitat Outperform Row Crops?"

In part two of his blog series, Brad Woodson, PFI habitat viability manager, shares how he determined whether habitat could outperform row crops by considering factors like cost of production, yield and commodity price for his own farm.

If doing your own calculations feels daunting, don't worry! Brad shares how precision conservation analysis, provided through our partnership with Pheasants Forever, can help. [Learn how it works.](#)

NEWS

Growth, impact and positive change in PFI's 2023 annual report



In 2023, PFI empowered farmers by:

- Engaging over 5,000 attendees in 218 events
- Supporting 48 farmers in on-farm research
- Expanding its network to over 8,400 members
- Featuring members in the media 573 times
- Helping 1,943 farmers plant more than 627,747 acres of cover crops
- And much more!

[Read the report, now available online.](#)

Support cover crop businesses in a role with PFI



We're seeking a senior cover crop business coordinator to manage our growing cover crop business accelerator program.

You'll provide one-on-one business support and financial assistance to help new and emerging cover crop businesses prepare for growth.

[Learn more and apply to join the team.](#)

Get paid, on-farm training this season



There are **nine** spots left in our Labor4Learning program!

This program provides you with the extra training and business insights you need to kickstart your own journey with farming.

Choose from a diverse range of farm enterprises to find the right fit for you at one of our [trainer farms](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Trees and Bees: How Agroforestry Benefits Insects and Farmers"



Tuesday, March 26 | Noon-1 p.m.

Planting trees on your farm has a host of benefits, from providing habitat and nectar for pollinators to buffering your farm from wind and pesticide drift.

In this week's webinar, **Ann Novak and Sally McCoy** will discuss the woodlots and pollinator plots they have put to use on their farm. **Zach Burhenn**, of Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs, will offer tips on site and species selection, long-term maintenance and more. [RSVP](#)

Join us for our Spanish-interpreted goat farming series



Saturday, March 30 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Red Oak, IA

PFI and the Center for Rural Affairs are thrilled to announce the continuation of our Spanish-interpreted "Year in the Life" series in 2024.

This season, join us as we follow **Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno** from Red Oak, Iowa, who will lead our first in-person session on March 30, and **Adam Ledvina** from Tama, Iowa, in a year of raising, grazing and marketing goats. [View details and register.](#)

Connect with field crops farmers in northern Iowa



Thursday, April 11 | 5-7 p.m. | Northwood, IA

Join **Troy Benjegerdes** at Worth Brewing Company for a [field crop farmer social](#). Conversation topics will be centered around marketing small grains, but all farm-related discussions and stories are welcome!

Troy farms 225 acres near Manly, Iowa. When not busy with software engineering and farming, he works on building a solar tractor.

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

April 2: Webinar – [Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials](#)

Hosted by: Kevin Fulton

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 3: Meet-up – [Meet & Greet: Practical Farmers and Pheasants Forever](#)

Noon-3 p.m. | Mankato, MN

April 11: Shared learning call – [Spend Money to Make Money? Effective Fungicide and Herbicide Management for Small-Grain Production](#)

Hosted by: Wade Dooley
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Gary Lesoing of Hickman, NE, was featured in [Successful Farming: Cover crops under the microscope](#)

Kelly Cheesewright of Chrisman, IL, **Sam Bennett** of Galva, IA, and **Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, were featured in [No-Till Farmer: No-Till Highlights: March 14, 2024](#)

Aaron Studebaker of Raymond, NE, **Keith Berns** of Bladen, NE, and **Mitchell Hora** of Brighton, IA, were featured in [Midwest Messenger: From carbonomics to carbon intensity scoring](#)

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, was featured in [Tri-State Neighbor: A little extra](#)

The following members were featured in a press release on the [Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship website: Secretary Naig Awards 26 Choose Iowa Value-Added Grants:](#)

- **Seth and Kenan Todd** of Columbus Junction, IA
- **Kim Andersen** of Brighton, IA
- **Chris, Benji and Jerald Deal** of Jefferson, IA
- **Shanen Ebersole** of Kellerton, IA
- **Seth and Tricia Engelbrecht** Waverly, IA
- **Matt Johnson** of Council Bluffs, IA
- **Maren and Tom Beard** of Decorah, IA
- **Clara Muggli-Toyloy** of Decorah, IA
- **Danelle Myer** of Logan, IA
- **Emma Barber** of Springville, IA
- **Nick Sennert** of Linn Grove, IA
- **Carly and Ethan Zierke** of Calmar, IA
- **Maury and Mary Wills** of Adel, IA

PFI in the News

Stefan Gailans, PFI's senior research manager, was featured in [Brownfield Ag News: Practical Farmers of Iowa seeking on-farm research participants](#)

Have you been featured in the media? If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

Contact: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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